International Application No.: PCT/US2004/018257 International Filing Date: 09 June 2004

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

## **ABSTRACT**

A system for storing and opening encased articles, such as those wrapped in a protective seal, provides a combined container and seal cutting apparatus. The container is configured to store at least one removable article encased within a protective seal. The seal cutting apparatus includes a receiving channel and a cutting member which extends into the receiving channel. The receiving channel is configured to receive at least a portion of the seal while the cutting member is configured to cooperatively cut the seal portion as it is inserted into and translated along the channel. The cutting apparatus may be permanently or temporarily attached to the container.